

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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'OVERSEAS' COSTLY, BUT IT'S A MUST How the Russians Won the Spanish Revolution Could be a Guide to their Moves in Islam

"What happened to overseas?" somebody asked Ray Cave, managing editor of *Time*. "Are American foreign correspondents being phased out of journalism?"

Talking to a crowd of OPC lunchers, Cave's reply was that the serious question is not "the phasing out of American foreign correspondents — but their phasing in."

"Despite all the talk in the past five years of the ever-declining number of U.S. foreign correspondents, there recently seem to be some contrary trends, especially on the part of major U.S. newsgathering organizations.

"The reason is pragmatic: there is a realization that the American public is expecting increasing sophistication in its publications, and that one evidence of this is first-hand reporting in depth from overseas. Editors can thus argue that such reporting has not only a journalistic validity, but a business validity. Accountants find this last part very comforting.

"But if the coverage is a necessity, the cost is admittedly formidable. *Time* has 20 bureaus overseas and 34 correspondents. The average cost per correspondent in 1980 will exceed \$200,000. This is 245% higher than in 1970, when the cost per correspondent was \$83,000.

"The most expensive *Time* bureau in the world is Tokyo. In 1970 it cost \$160,000 to maintain *Time*'s two-man Tokyo staff. This year it will cost \$475,000 for the same operation."

How can major news organizations combat such costs? Cave explained that *Time* is experimenting with a Lone Ranger system, using more bureaus but keeping them simpler, even one-man operations, self-sufficient, living in the culture he is trying to cover. Because today, he explained, it is not only necessary to know what happened, but why it happened.

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day With Us
... On the Day After

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Main Lounge — from 5:30 PM on
\$5 each, member or guest

Door Prizes ... Hors d'Oeuvres
and Irish dances

See old friends ... make new ones!

Can Someone Help A Worried Mother?

Can some OPC member help this distraught mother?

Her story starts with an AP item in the St. Joseph (Mo.) *News-Press* of Nov. 25, 1979:

Thirteen Vietnamese who flew to Singapore Saturday in a U.S.-built transport plane have asked to go to the United States and the pilot has met with U.S. embassy officials, government sources said. They would not say how or where the Vietnamese — 10 men, a woman and two children — obtained the four-engined C-130. According to the government sources, the 13 will be allowed to stay in Singapore while officials study their request.

Sue Humphrey's story continues in a letter to *Rosalind Moore*:

On Feb. 1, 1966, my son, SSGT Galen Humphrey, with six other men, disappeared in a C-130 plane. After 30 days, they were all declared dead although no trace of the plane or the men was ever found.

By a grapevine which I consider trustworthy, I learned the plane went down over Laos, in the Plain of Jars. I could not learn if the men were killed or taken prisoner.

Is it possible this is the plane? I have never been able to accept the decision that they went down in the Gulf of Tonkin.

The letter went to Rosalind because Mrs. Humphrey has been putting together puzzles for Dell, where Rosalind is an editor.

By George Weller

In the Spanish Civil War of 1936-9, the first open arena of the struggle for democracy, how well did American correspondents understand and explain the play of forces, Marxist, democratic and fascist?

The question is crucial today, when another generation of correspondents is trying to cover two Spains at once in Asia, back to back but interlocked by an Islamic revival.

Anyone who wishes to appraise the political vigilance and candor of reporters like the Hispanophiles Hemingway and Matthews, or *Pravda*'s Koltzov, later shot by Stalin ("Kharkov" in Hemingway's *Bell*), or even Philby, the Soviet spy of the *London Times*, needs a guide to what was really going on among the Loyalist hierarchy. Their stories emerged later, but were smothered in the greater war.

We need now to know in what degree these correspondents knew the truth and to what degree they were impelled to tell it, given their personal dilemmas and the Spanish censorship. In this way we can make an educated guess as to whether what we are getting out of Afghanistan and Iran will require drastic revision when — and if — a more complete truth emerges.

An extraordinary history has now appeared, hailed in Europe but recognized in this country only by scholars: the 664-page "Spanish Revolution" of Burnett Bolloten. Hugh Trevor-Roper, the British historian, calls Bolloten "a heretic because his work supports the orthodoxy of neither the Left nor the Right, neither Spanish Republic nor General Franco."

Bolloten is no latecomer. He is one of ours. At 27 he served for two years as the United Press correspondent in Valencia and Barcelona. He saw there the prelude to Madrid's fall: the decisive struggle on the government's side of the communists versus the anarchists and socialists. Though Bolloten is a dogged UP infantry type (they had 29 reporters in all) his interest was not mesmerized by the war in the front

WELLER, continued from page 1

lines, but by the effort of the NKVD to keep control both at the front and in the rear. Stalin had them bring home to Moscow the 7,800 cases of Spain's gold. He then shot them, all except their chief, Alexander Orlov, who escaped to the U.S.

Bolloten came out of Spain with a severe case of agencyitis, or hold-down shock. He had known too much, written too little, and — this is a rare form of the disease — wanted to know more.

He followed the refugees everywhere, especially to Mexico, asking their stories. From newspapers he collected over 100,000 items, cross-analyzed them with enormous labor. To keep alive, he sold parts of his collection of books, newspapers and documents to libraries. Stanford helped him.

In the early sixties his first wrap-up, "The Grand Camouflage," was published. He got rid of the first monkey on his back — only to be surrounded by a new pack of facts with tails, all gibbering to be heard. To finance his new project, he headed up a Sears department in California, selling encyclopedias from door to door. Later he earned \$70,000 a year in real estate, but that couldn't keep him away from his files. He was hooked. Couldn't kick the habit of history.

A very able professor at Stanford, Bertram D. Wolfe, author of the superb "Three Who Made A Revolution," (once the representative of the American Communist Party in the Comintern) encouraged his mania.

"No one after him will ever consult so many sources, witness so much at first hand, and try to replace it," wrote Wolfe after seeing his MS.

Bolloten was a war correspondent like the rest of us. But the strength of his impact is not in his mass of carefully derived facts, nor in the pith of battles. The lesson incomparably spelled out here is how the Russian government still used in Spain, as it is using now, principles worked out by Lenin for juggling the various shades of Marxist and other colors.

The aim is always the same as Lenin's in 1917, forcibly to prevent the Communist monopoly being outflanked on the left by a program equal in egalitarianism but superior in economics and in ethics.

Just as in Russia in 1918 Lenin put his rivals, the Social Revolutionary party, in cells and shot them lest they gain a democratic parliament with their far heavier majority, so the Communists, Spanish and Russian, wiped out the anarchists and left socialists and cracked open the whole democratic front.

The same thing is happening in Iran and Afghanistan, where the leftist Islamic parties, including possibly the Ayatollah Khomeini himself, are being

systematically eroded. In these countries, as in Spain, Moscow does not want the erosion of the non-Communist left to proceed faster than the pace it has established.

As in Spain, Russia did not want Britain and France and the U.S. to know what was going on, through free and vigilant correspondence, so today Russia does not want the Islamic world, both inside and outside the Soviet Union, to know how it lost and then regained control of the Afghan erosion, and is barely in control of that in Iran, through the kidnapper-students.

We could use a few Bollotens today. In the Italian Communist party's magazine *Rinascita*, of Nov. 30, last, Nurieddin Kenieri, secretary of the now fully legalized Communist party "Tudeh", told the leading Communist historian, Massimo Boffa:

"Our organized strength, operating chiefly among students and workers, has been growing very rapidly, especially after our fortnight period in the underground of August-September."

If American news services would make the "Spanish Revolution" required reading for their overseas bureaus, the Bollotens of the future would gain a better idea of what history is buried.

OPC member Weller, until his retirement, had been a foreign correspondent since 1932, when he reported from Greece and the Balkans for The New York Times. He joined the Chicago Daily News in 1940 as a war correspondent, became a roving correspondent covering much of the world, then concentrated on the Middle East. He has won the Pulitzer and other journalism prizes, has written a number of books and plays.

One of These Awards Might Be Yours

If you want to compete for this year's Excellence in Journalism Awards of the Deadline Club, you have to get them in by March 24. There are six awards:

- James Wright Brown award — public service reporting, newspapers, wire services;
- TV Public Service award — TV news;
- Radio Public Service award — radio news;
- Financial News award — any medium, business-financial reporting;
- Science award — medical, space, biological, physical, science, print media.

Entries go to: Harry A. Turton, General Motors Corp., 767 Fifth Ave., NYC 10022. Also, any questions.

Letters

POMPTON LAKES, N.J. — When I needed it most, *Matt Bassity* sponsored me as an OPC member. We had few conversations, but each was important to me — important enough to encourage me to "keep going."

Next month, the American Community Cultural Center Association will have a New Writers in New Jersey symposium which will encompass many activities to help writers "keep going."

I will dedicate something at the luncheon to honor his memory. He was kind, generous and intelligent: a combination hard to beat and hard to match.

— *Milli Janz*, Executive Director

PHOENIX — Thank you for writing me to rejoin the OPC. I resigned two years ago because of my age, and I have no likelihood of getting back into journalism now. I am 81 years old, and my ability to write has shrunk.

I joined in 1947 and enjoyed every year of my membership, beginning with the famous meetings in The Times Tower Building. My sponsors were *Bill Shirer* and *Louis Lochner*, both great newspaper correspondents. I was lucky to know them.

My best wishes to the OPC.

— *Dorothy F. Gjertsen*

The Chef Says:

Enjoy Your Food Or Send It Back

Al Wall emerged from a recent meeting of the Chemists' Club house committee with these notes:

The menu has been revised to offer many more choices. The cover has been revised too, and handsomely, by our own *Sylvia Fox*.

The committee says, quoting the chief chef, that the only way to improve the quality of what is served is to send back anything — meat, fish or fowl — that you regard as being in the last of that trio. If you don't like it, reject it.

As for seating — the round table in the southeast corner of the grill room, which seats eight, is reserved for OPC drop-ins, or for regulars who try the bar before the board for lunch. It is held for OPC until 1 p.m., when it's up for grabs.

"However," says *Al*, "on big banquet or special event days, it would be unrealistic, due to overflow, to deny this table to others. Let's use this franchise wisely and with an eye on the clock or an alerting call to Paul."

... and postscripts

For the record: *Bill McKeown*, boating writer and editor and OPC member, was awarded the Ole Evinrude Award for contributions to recreational boating. Bill, who created *Boating Magazine*, is now boating editor of *Popular Mechanics*. He has two books out on boating, *Boating in America* and *Outboard Boating Handbook*.

By-Lines: "Less than earth-shaking," says OPC member *Peter J. Brennan*, but he has pieces in *Industrial World* in January and February; in *ABA Banking Journal* in January, March and May; and in *Venture* in April and May. With others in the works. The *Venture* pieces may interest our better heeled and more venturesome members — April is on overseas investment for entrepreneurs and May on offshore tax havens.

... *John Adams*, former newsman with CBS, ABC and Radio Free Europe, in town to open New York office of his Washington-based consulting firm, John Adams Associates Inc. ...

OPC member *Martin Sokolinsky* is teaching a course in "Literary Translation" at Hunter College Center for Lifelong Learning, 440 E. 26 St. The course, he explains, aims at increasing awareness of the processes underlying the craft of translation. It is intended for the writer who sees translation as a means of developing literary skills. French and Spanish are source languages used.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Mark Frazier, director of the Sabre Foundation Journalism Fund, is looking for writers who might be interested in "our program to assist investigative journalists in researching the direct costs of government."

The Foundation provides grants. A new round of grant proposals is now being reviewed. Write him for information at 325 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

A booklet on the Foundation is in the OPC office.

A special STAR-TREK SCREENING of the motion picture *Star-Trek* will be held for OPC members on Friday, March 14, at 8 p.m., at the Magno Review Theater, 1350 Avenue of the Americas. Only 90 seats are available, so reservations are a MUST. Phone the Club office: 679-9650.

March Lobby Show: Celebrities & Photos

March will bring the OPC Lounge Gallery an exhibit of color photographs of famous people culled from the pages of *Town & Country*. Among them: Bob Hope, Mary Martin, Janet Gaynor, Prince Charles, Douglas Fairbanks, Cheryl and Daryl Zanuck and Nelson Rockefeller. Melissa Tardiff, art director of *Town & Country*, cooperated with *Herb Silverman*, OPC art committee chairman, in arranging this.

Plans are in the works for a reception for some of the photographees, to be announced later.

Placement

WANTED: Bi-lingual executive editor fluent in idiomatic Spanish and English, for successful magazines in food processing industry. Chicago area. Some translation. Report to president. Salary: mid-\$20s. Please send resumes direct to F.C. Decker Company, Counsel House, Brookfield Center, CT 06805.

Veteran of Fleet Street journalism (*London Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*) as well as UPI, *NY Times*, and travel books seeks assignment overseas or in U.S.A. Skilled in all procedures — from writing to typesetting, and pasting up-printing newsletters, etc. For further information and work-samples, write to Placement, to be immediately forwarded locally.

Stringers sought, to report from their areas of the world on the growing home video industry, to file stories once or twice a month in form of hard news items of interest to business execs in U.S.A. and elsewhere. Pay modest, but commensurate with work involved. Big need now is for reporters based in Tokyo, London, Amsterdam, but other areas also of interest. Write Tim Baskerville, Editor, Video Marketing Newsletter, 1690 Vine St., Hollywood, CA 90028.

Top newsman, age 35, seeks employment in U.S.A. or overseas. Background includes 11 years' solid experience with *Time* in Israel, *Chicago Daily News*, and *Field News Service*. Speaks Hebrew and Arabic; also some French, German, Spanish. Please address Placement, to be immediately forwarded. Or phone him: (302) 655-3006 in Delaware.

Placement is a free service to OPC members here and overseas, for Jobs Wanted or Jobs Open. Please address Helen Alpert, Placement, at the OPC.

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Who, What, Where

By GRACE NAISMITH

PUBLISHING: Norman Lobsenz's new book, "Styles of Loving," subtitled, "Why You Love the Way You Do," is co-authored by Marcia Lasswell and published this month by Doubleday. It is an alternate selection of Literary Guild. A new wave of sociological findings about different concepts of love is rolling in — one book by Dorothy Tennov, entitled "Love and Limerence" from Stein and Day, stirring up controversy about the old-fashioned emotion. Norman, now living in Los Angeles, is teaching a course, "Writing the Non-Fiction Book" at USC's graduate Professional Writing Program. Lovely wife, Dorothea, former secretary of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, is an administrative assistant in UCLA's Extension School. . . . **Jhan Robbins** has also been writing about love — "Bess and Harry, An American Love Story," for Putnam, McCall's and The Reader's Digest Condensed Book Club, Jhan is a father again, so long after his other four children, that he has forgotten that babies cry a great deal. Fortunately, he says, typewriter sounds seem to soothe Kathleen Sallie. . . . **Meg Whitcomb's** "Dear Meg" column, which appears daily in the *New York Post*, is now in 14 papers, and she is about to do a 3-minute daily "Dear Meg" series for TV syndication. . . . **Walter Froehlich** wrote the cover story — 4000 words — for the January American Legion Magazine. Entitled "Science in the 1980's" science writer Froehlich's article made 50 predictions for the future, one of which was that space vehicles carrying men and women into orbit will become so commonplace before the end of the 1980's that they will draw little more attention than arrivals of ships in New York harbor. And, encouragingly, he wrote that life expectancy will increase by about three years in the 1980's. Froehlich, who lives in Washington, is a member of 26 scientific and journalistic organizations including International Science Writers, Inc.

SAD NEWS: Peter Grimm, former president of William A. White & Sons, died Feb. 16, at 94. He was a frequent luncheon guest at OPC, fondly welcomed. Grimm assembled the properties that became Rockefeller Center, and was extremely active in crusading for New York and its more efficient and responsive government.

SPEAKERS: Russ Tornabene told the Joint Conference of Religion and Press on First Amendment Concerns that the media should take the fight to

the streets to make the public aware of the problems and threats to their rights. . . . **Jaime Isaac Reibel** gave a lecture at Yale University January 28th and showed slides on the Saragureños Indians, the southernmost indigenous group in the Ecuadorian Sierra. He lived among them, as a community developer, from Nov. 1978 to Nov. 1979, and was founder of the Funaocion Jatari, dedicated to the self determination of the Saragureños.

HONOR: Johannes Steel, a member of OPC's Founder's Group, has won an award, Best Market Prediction of 1979, from the Cimota Research Co., Scottsdale, Ariz. Steel, a nationally syndicated columnist, was chosen because of his accurate prediction about the rising price of gold. . . . **Barney Oldfield**, of Litton Industries, has been asked by President Glenn Terrell of Washington State University, and Mrs. Edward R. Murrow, to serve as a Founding Trustee for the Edward R. Murrow Symposium at that school, where the famous reporter and broadcaster had his university experience.

SORRY, Will Rogers and **Bryan Sterling**, but we left out the key line in the quote in the last issue. It should have been: "Gasoline was never much higher. But there you have a business that is in the hands of a few men and they see that the price is kept up. It's not regulated by supply and demand, it's regulated by manipulation."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SCIENCE WRITERS announces for sale its mailing list of over 1,000 NASW members, \$175. It includes the total membership, and also health and science corporate, government and non-profit academic PR's. Write Diane McGurgan, P.O. Box 294, Greenlawn, N.Y. 11740. For #125, a list of top U.S. medicine,

science and energy environment writers on newspapers, magazines and TV radio.

PUBLISHED: "After the Diet — Then What? 50 Rules for Staying Slim," written by **Theodore Berland** and Henry A. Jordan, M.D.

Jack Le Vien spent a few days at the U.S. Embassy in Morocco where **Angier Biddle Duke** is the new American ambassador. Le Vien brings back glowing reports about the highly competent way that Duke is handling this sensitive assignment.

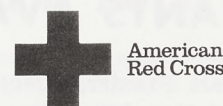
Cairo Press Club Now Open to OPCers

Exchange of facilities between OPC and the Foreign Press Association in Cairo, Egypt, are now in effect, President **Henry Gellermann** announced.

The Foreign Press Association is housed in the Hilton Hotel and members enjoy a bar, dining room, meeting rooms and other facilities.

OPC members may use these facilities upon identifying themselves with a paid-up membership card.

What's the best
blood type?
A regular donor.



Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
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